

# COACHES' CODE OF CONDUCT PLEDGE

I Hereby Pledge To Live Up To My Certification As A NYSCA Coach  
By Following The NYSCA Coaches' Code of Ethics.

- I will place the emotion and physical well-being of my players  
ahead of any personal desire to win.
- I will remember to treat each player as an individual, remembering  
the large range of emotion and physical development for the same  
age group
- I will do my best to provide a safe playing situation for my players
- I will do my best to organize practices that are fun and challenging  
for all players
- I will ensure that I am knowledgeable in the rules of each sport that  
I coach, and that I will teach these rules to my players
- I will use those coaching techniques appropriate for each of the  
skills that I teach
- I will remember that I am a youth coach and that the game is for  
the children and not adults.

Initial & Date \_\_\_\_\_

Version: 040810

# BSAAF YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY STATEMENT

We are committed to safeguarding the welfare of all young people. All reasonable steps will be taken to promote safe practices and to protect youth from harm, abuse and exploitation within all BSAA Football sponsored events and activities.

## **BSAA Football will...**

1. Implement our recruitment / enrolment procedures for appointing staff, volunteers and helpers to ensure that reasonable steps are taken not to appoint a person who is unsuitable to work with youth or who is disqualified from working with youth based on a third party background check or other reliable source.
2. Ensure that all staff, volunteers and helpers in our group are aware of their responsibility to protect young people. A youth will be considered to be anyone under the age of 18.
3. Promote the rights of a youth to be listened to and to be taken seriously so that the youth is able to express their views, thoughts and concerns.
4. Ensure that staff, volunteers and helpers are aware of and adhere to our code of conduct and youth protection policy and procedures, a copy of which are attached.
5. Ensure that all staff, volunteers and helpers understand the need to report youth protection concerns about a youth or a worker's conduct towards a youth.
6. Ensure that staff, volunteers and helpers understand their responsibility to refer any youth protection concerns to the BSAA executive board inline with our youth protection procedures
7. Ensure that staff, volunteers and helpers are provided with support and the opportunities to develop their skills and knowledge in relation to youth protection issues

Initial & Date \_\_\_\_\_

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# BSAAF YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY & GUIDELINES

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BSAA football board has developed the Youth Protection Program designed to help ensure the safety and well-being of all League members, particularly our youth. The Programs guidelines are aimed at eliminating any opportunities for abuse within our sports program. It is the responsibility of all League participants to ensure that these policies are followed.

It must be understood that our volunteers are not trained to deal with situations of abuse, and should never attempt to do so, but they must take responsibility for promptly reporting any concerns to a BSAA board member.

All BSAA football coaches, referees and volunteers, who are working directly with children under the age of eighteen, are required to participate in, and adhere to, the Youth Protection Program which includes:

1. Background checks on all prospective volunteers to evaluate the individual's suitability to perform in a responsible leadership capacity around youth.
  - A. sex offender
  - B. criminal
  - C. violence
2. Reading the BSSA football Youth Protection policy and guidelines as posted on our website.
3. Signing the Code of Conduct for Coaches Form.

## **Youth Protection Policy**

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The parents, families, relatives and members of the Community Athletic Association trust our program to provide a safe environment for all participants. The BSAA football Youth Protection Policy does not tolerate abuse in any form, whether it is emotional, physical, or sexual.

Adults who assume volunteer roles within BSAA football will have the opportunity for a rewarding experience. The opportunity to work with youth is a privileged position of trust that should be held only by those who are willing to demonstrate behavior that fulfills this trust.

## **Youth Protection Guidelines**

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The following guidelines and expectations have been established for persons serving in volunteer roles with BSAA football:

1. Conduct yourself in a courteous, respectful manner demonstrating behavior appropriate for a positive role model for youth.
2. Demonstrate exemplary behavior at all times when dealing with parents, coaches, assistant coaches, referees and other personnel involved in the sport.
3. Encourage good sportsmanship by the players during both practices and games.
4. Treat all players with respect and dignity. Promote respect for all the participants including the opposition and game officials.
5. Put the welfare and well-being of the players first before winning. Kids first, winning second.
6. Create a positive environment for training and competition. Make football enjoyable and promote fair play.
7. Encourage and support players. Provide constructive feedback. Take time to offer praise whenever the youth does anything praiseworthy. Focus on the positive.
8. Where possible, avoid one-on-one situations with individual players. Meetings, discussions and drills should be conducted in view of other adults and/or youths.

9. Obtain parental consent to transport young players to and from practices and games.
10. While physical contact between an adult and a youth is not absolutely prohibited, as in high-fives when congratulating a youth for an accomplishment, adults must be very alert to the appropriateness of any physical contact.
11. Respect privacy. All youth are entitled to personal privacy from adults, and when necessary or appropriate, from other youth as well. A health and safety concern is the only exception. Adults must protect their own privacy in similar situations.
  12. Discipline used in youth programs should be constructive and reflect high values. Profanity and corporal punishment are never permitted.
13. Physical hazing, initiations, ridicule, inappropriate teasing or aggression are prohibited and may not be included as part of any youth activity.
14. Team managers, coaches, referees and League Representatives must ensure that BSAA football policies are followed.
15. Young players must not be left alone without guidance or supervision. Ensure that a child is not left alone at any time (such as waiting for his/her parents to pick them up after a practice of game).
16. Keep medical and emergency contact details for the players with you at all practices and games in the event of an emergency.
17. Comply with anti-discrimination laws. BSAA football offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status.
18. The use of illegal drugs, alcohol, and tobacco products is prohibited at all BSAA football practices, games, official meetings, and events.
19. Team managers and coaches should communicate all relevant league information to their teams. Details should include number, length and times of practices, games dates and other related League information.
20. If the event of an injury, immediately obtain or provide the appropriate medical assistance.
21. Respect, adhere to, and enforce the rules, policies, and guidelines established by BSAA football including all state laws related to child abuse and substance abuse.

### **Child Abuse and Neglect**

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Youth protection policies and procedures address issues of child abuse. Child abuse is deliberate emotional, physical or sexual injury of a child by an adult or older child. Neglect is harm caused by withholding life's necessities food, clothing, shelter, medical care, and education.

### **Signs of Abuse**

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Any abrupt change in behavior that is maintained for a week or longer is a sign that the child is experiencing stress that could stem from a variety of causes including family disruption, illness, death of a pet, a move to a new neighborhood, or child abuse. Some of the possible specific signs for each kind of abuse are listed below:

**Possible signs of Physical Abuse:** Suspicious injuries that are different from those normally associated with childhood "wear and tear" such as burns, bruises, lacerations, abrasions and fractures.

**Possible signs of Emotional Abuse:** Emotional abuse of others, extreme sensitivity to criticism, self-destructive behavior, appears to be a danger to others, continuous unwillingness or inability to form trusting relationships, chronic rebellion against authority, constant socially disruptive behavior, lagging physical development, and in severe cases habit disorders such as thumb sucking or rocking.

**Possible signs of Sexual Abuse:** Difficulty in walking; torn, stained, or bloody clothing; pain or itching in the genital area; bruises or bleeding in the body's private areas; sexually transmitted diseases; an age-inappropriate understanding of sex; reluctance to be left alone with a particular person; persistent and inappropriate sex play with peers; wearing excessive amounts of clothing; fear of touch; and abuse of animals.

**Possible signs of Neglect:** Child consistently shows up inappropriately or poorly dressed, shows obvious need of medical care, lacks personal hygiene, repeatedly borrows money for basic

necessities, and is consistently overly hungry. If asked, the child will likely make excuses for his or her parent(s).

### **Your Responsibility**

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1. Show support and concern for any youth who might be affected
2. Do not jump to any conclusions. Act with all due diligence.
3. Ask the youth in indirect ways if "everything is all right." Be available for the child.
4. Consider stating your observations to the child's parents. Do not directly or indirectly accuse a suspected adult of child abuse.
5. Speak confidentially with other adult leaders who have contact with the child.
6. Handle the matter as discreetly as possible.
7. If necessary, remove the child from danger and obtain medical treatment as needed.
8. Report any League related concerns to the BSAA football President. The law requires only that you have a reasonable suspicion that a child is being abused.

### **Reporting Procedures**

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BSAA football views the reporting of suspected child abuse as both a personal and ethical obligation. All League members should be alert to the physical and emotional state of all program participants.

1. If child abuse is suspected, report your reasonable suspicions to the League President who will immediately investigate the allegations. During the investigation period, the accused individual will be suspended from all activities involving the supervision of children. The suspension will continue until the person is cleared or allegations are proven. If the allegations are proven correct, the individual will be removed from all BSAA football activities.
2. When any BSAA football member suspects child abuse or neglect occurring outside of the BSAA football program, they are urged to report the situation to appropriate local authorities at the Department of Human Services at ((816) 228-0291).
3. All information regarding alleged child abuse will be maintained under strict confidentiality. Information will be communicated only on a "need-to-know" basis.

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Team & Division: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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